

Espionage agencies go to great lengths to protect agents

Soviets' hard line on Daniloff intended to reassure their spies

By Warren Richey

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There is a silent audience scattered throughout the United States intently watching every turn in the current negotiations between the US and the Soviet Union over Nicholas Daniloff and Gennady Zakharov.

They are the hundreds of Soviet citizens the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates are currently working undercover in the US for the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB. Each one of them has a vested interest in the outcome of the superpower test of wills.

According to some analysts, the Soviets' hard line in calling for the total release of Mr. Zakharov, a United Nations employee who was arrested in New York last month on espionage charges, is sending a reassuring message to dedicated KGB agents stationed in the US.

Zakharov's arrest and the subsequent jailing in Moscow of Mr. Daniloff, an American journalist, have sparked a debate over how best to handle the future arrest and prosecution of alleged Soviet spies in the US.

Some observers wonder whether talk of a negotiated

**'In any [spy]
organization,
you want high
morale and your
people to take
chances.'**

— Richard Helms

settlement of the standoff undermines the deterrent effect of tough US espionage laws on KGB agents here.

But other experts counter that in the real world of intelligence gathering, negotiated swaps are a necessary option in dealing with the Soviets.

"This is a tough world and a tough business," says Richard Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence

Agency. "I think that US counterintelligence has to nail these people and arrest them whenever they can make a case against them."

But Mr. Helms stresses that the US government must reserve the option of negotiating with the Soviet Union whenever necessary in the interest of achieving results. The alternative, he says, is for individuals such as Daniloff to have to endure lengthy prison sentences in the Soviet Union, and for relatively minor episodes to escalate into major confrontations.

"If we establish a policy of no exchanges of spies in the US, we would have to accept that the same number of people [Westerners accused of spying] in Eastern Europe when caught would be sentenced to long prison terms and would spend the time in East European prisons," says Ladislav Bittman, a defector from Czechoslovakia who is now an author and university professor.

Professor Bittman notes that the Soviets perceived the arrest of Zakharov as a provocation — a form of entrapment by US officials. Likewise, the American government has said that Daniloff was set up by the Soviets on manufactured spy charges.

"We have to negotiate some kind of resolution, some kind of exchange," Bittman says.

There are roughly 1,000 Soviet diplomats, officials, UN employees, business people, students, and others in the US, and another 3,000 from the other East-bloc countries combined. It is estimated that one-quarter of these people are involved in intelligence activities.

In addition, 7,000 Soviet and East-bloc tourists visited the US last year.

Despite a string of spy arrests in 1984 and '85, the majority of the Soviet personnel involved in the most recent espionage rings have enjoyed diplomatic immunity and were quickly ushered out of the US by Soviet authorities. The few Soviet and East-bloc agents who have been convicted and sentenced to prison in the West have traditionally been traded in well-publicized spy swaps usually carried out at the Glienicke Bridge between East and West Berlin.

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CIA Studies Turncoat's Soviet TV Appearance

By Walter Pincus
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"If you are going to live in the Soviet Union, you have got to pay the rent," was the way former CIA director Richard M. Helms yesterday described Sunday's interview on Soviet television of ex-agent Edward L. Howard, the first agency operative to sell secrets to the Soviet Union and then defect to Moscow.

Howard, whose disclosures to the KGB about Central Intelligence Agency operations in Moscow are said to have left that station a shambles, has taken "the next step down the Soviet path," according to a U.S. intelligence source. He apparently has become a propagandist, and several sources said yesterday they believe Howard may turn up regularly to comment for Soviet television on U.S. affairs.

On Sunday, however, the 35-year-old former agent did not supply information trying to link U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff to the CIA as some U.S. intelligence experts, and Daniloff himself, had expected.

"They may not have worn him down yet," Helms said, observing that Howard "probably thought he could fence" with his interrogator during this first appearance in discussing anti-American issues.

The Soviets "probably took what they could get," Helms said, but added: "They will get him worn down eventually."

Helms called it a "bizarre interview" because Howard and his Soviet interviewer delved into such diverse areas as the reading matter of his former CIA colleagues in the Soviet section, the large number of CIA employees who are women, and because of the way he described Martha Peterson, a U.S. Embassy official in Moscow who was ejected by the Soviets in 1977 for what the Soviets described as espionage ac-

tivities and who was among Howard's instructors during his CIA training days.

She "gave us lectures on how to conduct yourself if you are caught, what we were to do if apprehended by the KGB," Howard said. She "told us how she was caught by the KGB, and what had happened to her."

He added, "Now she is living quite happily. She is married and has children . . . [and] I think she is regarded with respect in CIA circles."

Howard made a point of stressing the unusual number of women in the CIA, saying that "a good quarter" of the Soviet section's employees were women. "I don't think that other intelligence services, although they make use of women, have as high a proportion," he said, adding: "I think these women in the CIA have more adventurist inclinations than ordinary women."

Howard identified the CIA's Soviet section as being made up of "hard-headed anti-Sovieters," many of whom were either ex-military people or emigres from Russia.

However, when his questioner tried to say they were individuals whose parents had fled after the Russian revolution, Howard disagreed, saying there also were "those who escaped from the Soviet Union comparatively recently."

During the interview, Howard also refused to accept the long-standing Soviet theme that the U.S. Peace Corps, in which he served for two years, was a CIA operation. Although the interviewer described it that way, Howard said it was "not true" that he was in the CIA while he was a Peace Corps member.

Robert Gallegos, a former neighbor and coworker of Howard after Howard left the CIA and lived in Santa Fe, N.M., said yesterday that he saw some ironic changes in How-

ard's views as they were presented on Soviet television.

In 1985, Gallegos said, Howard asked him and his wife to look at the movie "Gorky Park" and had his own videotaped copy of a "Rambo" movie. In his interview, however, Howard criticized Americans whose knowledge of the Soviet Union came from "books such as 'Gorky Park,'" and described "Rambo" as a "rubbish" movie that creates aggressive moods in people.

The 50-minute interview is being studied by the CIA, sources said, for hints about Howard's state of mind.

Howard, who was trained to handle CIA agents in Moscow, was fired from the agency in June 1983, after failing a polygraph test. In less than six months he began selling secrets to the KGB.

Last month he turned up in Moscow.